

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING SESSION AFFINITY ACROSS MULTIPLE SERVER GROUPS

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The invention is a method and apparatus for maintaining session affinity within a
server farm when requests sharing a session ID switch between server groups or
between server clones in a single server group. In accordance with the invention,
client requests include a list of clone identification codes, each code uniquely
10 identifying a clone within a server group for handling the request. The clone
identification code may be appended to a session identification code. For each
different server that handles a request in a session, a new clone identification code is
appended without deleting or overwriting any previously appended clone identification
codes. When a request is received, the list of clone identification codes associated
15 with the request is parsed in a predetermined order to search for the first clone
identification code that matches one of the clone identification codes of a server in the
appropriate server group. If a match is detected, the request is dispatched to that
clone. If no match is found, the request is dispatched to a server clone in the server
group using any reasonable Work Load Management (WLM) mechanism and then the
clone identification code of the selected clone is added to the list.